

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 142

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 142. The Legislature was considering that legislation this morning. When they...when you recessed at noon, Senator Beutler had pending amendment number 582 and, pursuant to its offer, Senator Beutler had moved to suspend the germaneness rule to permit consideration of AM0582.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Further discussion on the motion to suspend the germaneness rule. Senator Kristensen, did you want to speak? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, just to remind you where we are, we're on the motion to suspend the rules to consider the amendment that would essentially take the leftover money in the Ethanol Fund, the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund. It would take that 12 to 16 million, whatever is there, and transfer it into a trust fund, the interest of which would be used for water quality protection by the NRDs, and it would provide somewhere in the area of a million dollars to do that. The substance of this amendment has brought up the idea that maybe this money is intended to be or can be or some people have some interest in using the money for other purposes or for perhaps extending the life of the EPIC Fund, they call it the EPIC Fund, altogether. So I would like to explore that to know what other intentions are with regard to this money and how serious they are and what the competition is here so that the body has some idea of the various possible uses of this money. And, in that regard, Senator Wickersham, did you indicate that certain bills purporting to use the EPIC monies or change the use of the EPIC Fund had come through your committee?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And could you describe what those bills are.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, we had one bill that proposed to use funds. It was in support of ethanol. We took part of that concept, we amended a provision into a bill that Senator Stuhr had brought to us, and it would provide for a two-cent reduction in the excise tax for ethanol, but it would only use whatever